

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the method comprising comparing a first picture with a second picture, calculating a measure of the similarity between the first and the second pictures, comparing the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity and, when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, outputting an indicator indicating that a non-temporally predictive error concealment method should be used by a subsequent decoder and, when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity, outputting an indicator indicating that a temporally predictive error concealment method should be used by a subsequent decoder, wherein the indicator is included in a picture header, and wherein the video signal is encoded according to the H.263 standard and the indicator is included in the Supplemental Enhancement Information.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is updated when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity.
- 3-14. Cancelled.
15. (Previously presented) A method of encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal, the method comprising selecting an encoding mode for a picture of the sequence and providing an encoding mode indicator in the encoded video signal to indicate the encoding mode of the picture, the encoding mode indicator to be used in a corresponding decoding process for the picture, determining a separate error

concealment method indicator for the picture or a part thereof to indicate a type of error concealment method to be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs, and providing the error concealment method indicator in the encoded video signal.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, comprising comparing a first picture of the sequence with a second picture of the sequence, calculating a measure of similarity between the first and second pictures, comparing the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity, and, when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, providing an error concealment method indicator indicating that a non-temporally predictive error concealment method should be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture when an error occurs and, when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity, providing an error concealment method indicator indicating that a temporally predictive error concealment method should be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture when an error occurs.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the error concealment method indicator is updated when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15 wherein the error concealment method indicator is included in a picture header.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the video signal is encoded according to the H.263 standard and the error concealment method indicator is included in the Supplemental Enhancement information of the standard.

20. (Previously presented) A method of encoding a video signal according to claim 16, wherein, when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion, the error concealment method indicator is updated and when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion, the error concealment method indicator is unchanged.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the method comprising receiving an encoded video signal, identifying from the encoded video signal an encoding mode indicator for a picture to be decoded to determine an encoding mode of the picture, and identifying from the encoded video signal a separate error concealment method indicator indicating a type of error concealment method to be used in the decoding process for the picture or a part thereof when an error occurs, and applying an error concealment method in accordance with the type indicated by the error concealment method indicator in the decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs.

22. (Previously presented) A method of decoding according to claim 21, wherein the error concealment method indicator represents a measure of similarity between a first picture of the video sequence and a second picture of the video sequence and, wherein the method comprises applying a temporally predictive error concealment method when the error concealment method indicator is the same as that of a previously received picture, and,

applying a spatial error concealment method when the error concealment method indicator is different from that of a previously received picture.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal, the apparatus being arranged to select an encoding mode for a picture of the sequence and provide an encoding mode indicator in the encoded video signal to indicate the encoding mode of the picture, the encoding mode indicator to be used in a corresponding decoding process for the picture, to determine a separate error concealment method indicator for the picture or a part thereof to indicate a type of error concealment method to be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs, and to provide the error concealment method indicator in the encoded video signal.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the apparatus is arranged to compare a first picture of the sequence with a second picture of the sequence, calculate a measure of similarity between the first and second pictures, compare the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity, and, when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, to provide an error concealment method indicator indicating that a non-temporally predictive error concealment method should be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture when an error occurs and, when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity, to provide an error concealment method indicator indicating that a temporally predictive error concealment method should be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture when an error occurs.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the apparatus is arranged to update the error concealment method indicator when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion, and to leave the error concealment method indicator unchanged when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, wherein the apparatus is arranged to receive the encoded video signal, to identify from the encoded video signal an encoding mode indicator for a picture to be decoded to determine an encoding mode of the picture, and to identify from the encoded video signal a separate error concealment method indicator indicating a type of error concealment method to be used in the decoding process for the picture or a part thereof when an error occurs, and to apply an error concealment method in accordance with the type indicated by the error concealment method indicator in the decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs.

27. (Previously Presented) A portable radio communications device including at least one of an apparatus for encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal and an apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures,

wherein the apparatus for encoding a video signal is arranged to select an encoding mode for a picture of the sequence and provide an encoding mode indicator in the encoded video signal to indicate the encoding mode of the picture, the encoding mode indicator to be used in a corresponding decoding process for the picture, to determine a separate error concealment method indicator for the picture or a part thereof to indicate a type of error

concealment method to be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs, and to provide the error concealment method indicator in the encoded video signal, and

wherein the apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal is arranged to receive an encoded video signal, to identify from the encoded video signal an encoding mode indicator for a picture to be decoded to determine an encoding mode of the picture, and to identify from the encoded video signal a separate error concealment method indicator indicating a type of error concealment method to be used in the decoding process for the picture or a part thereof when an error occurs, and to apply an error concealment method in accordance with the type indicated by the error concealment method indicator in the decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs.

28. (Previously presented) An encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures comprising an encoding mode indicator in the encoded video signal to indicate the encoding mode of a picture, the encoding mode indicator to be used in a corresponding decoding process for the picture, and a separate error concealment method indicator for the picture or a part thereof to indicate a type of error concealment method to be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having one of two values with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the error concealment method indicator is included in a picture segment header and/or a macroblock header.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the error concealment method indicator indicates a type of error concealment to be applied for a specified rectangular area of a picture.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, comprising providing multiple error concealment method indicators for a picture, each error concealment method indicator specifying a type of error concealment to be applied for one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the error concealment method indicator is included in a picture header.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the video signal is encoded according to the H.263 standard and the error concealment method indicator is included in the Supplemental Enhancement Information.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having one of two values with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the error concealment method indicator is included in a picture segment header and/or a macroblock header.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the error concealment method indicator indicates a type of error concealment to be applied for a specified rectangular area of a picture.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein multiple error concealment method indicators are provided for a picture, each error concealment method indicator specifying a type of error concealment to be applied for one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture.

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises comparing a scene identifier, for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if

the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, applying a temporally predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture.

42. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises comparing a scene identifier for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, applying a temporally predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture.

43. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises comparing a scene identifier for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, applying a spatial error concealment method in the decoding process for the picture.

44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises comparing a scene identifier for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly-decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, applying a spatial error concealment method in the decoding process for the picture.

45. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video encoder~~ apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the ~~video encoder~~ apparatus is arranged to include the error concealment method indicator in a picture header.

46. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video encoder~~ apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the ~~video encoder~~ apparatus is arranged to encode the video signal according to the H.263 standard and to include the error concealment method indicator in the Supplemental Enhancement Information.

47. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video encoder~~ apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.

48. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video encoder~~ apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having one of two values with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.

49. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video encoder~~ apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the ~~video encoder~~ apparatus is arranged to include the error concealment method indicator in a picture segment header and/or a macroblock header.

50. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video encoder~~ apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the error concealment method indicator indicates a type of error concealment to be applied for a specified rectangular area of a picture.

51. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video encoder~~ apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the ~~video encoder~~ apparatus is arranged to provide multiple error concealment method indicators for a picture, each error concealment method indicator specifying a type of error concealment to be applied for one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture.

52. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the error concealment method indicator is included in a picture header.

53. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the video signal is encoded according to the H.263 standard and the error concealment method indicator is included in the Supplemental Enhancement Information.

54. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.

55. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator is a scene identifier associated with the scenes, the scene identifier having one of two values with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.

56. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the error concealment method indicator is included in a picture segment header and/or a macroblock header.

57. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the error concealment method indicator indicates a type of error concealment to be applied for a specified rectangular area of a picture.

58. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 57, wherein multiple error concealment method indicators are provided for a picture, each error concealment method indicator specifying a type of error concealment to be applied for one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture.

59. (Currently Amended) An ~~A video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the ~~video decoder~~ apparatus is arranged to compare a scene identifier for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, the ~~video decoder~~

apparatus is arranged to apply a temporally predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture.

60. (Currently Amended) An ~~A-video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 55, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the video decoder apparatus is arranged to compare a scene identifier for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture the video decoder apparatus is arranged to apply a temporally predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture.

61. (Currently Amended) An ~~A-video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the ~~video decoder~~ apparatus is arranged to compare a scene identifier for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, the ~~video decoder~~ apparatus is arranged to apply a spatial error concealment method in the decoding process for the picture.

62. (Currently Amended) An ~~A-video decoder~~ apparatus according to claim 55, wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the ~~video decoder~~ apparatus is arranged to compare a scene identifier for the picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, the ~~video decoder~~

apparatus is arranged to apply a spatial error concealment method in the decoding process for the picture.

63. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal, the apparatus comprising:

means for selecting an encoding mode for a picture of the sequence and provide an encoding mode indicator in the encoded video signal to indicate the encoding mode of the picture, the encoding mode indicator to be used in a corresponding decoding process for the picture;

means for determining a separate error concealment method indicator for the picture or a part thereof to indicate a type of error concealment method to be used in the corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs; and

means for providing the error concealment method indicator in the encoded video signal.

64. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, comprising:

means for receiving the encoded video signal;

means for identifying from the encoded video signal an encoding mode indicator for a picture to be decoded to determine an encoding mode of the picture;

means for identifying from the encoded video signal a separate error concealment method indicator indicating a type of error concealment method to be used in the decoding process for the picture or a part thereof when an error occurs; and

means for applying an error concealment method in accordance with the type

indicated by the error concealment method indicator in the decoding process for the picture or said part thereof when an error occurs.